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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W
---------- 021075
R 212040Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7873
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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FROM ROCAP

E.TWM 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, PORG, GT, VA, HO, ES, NU
SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE IN TROUBLE

1. SUMMARY. SINCE JULY 10, WHEN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS CALLED ON THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CAN) TO APPLY A POLITICAL VIABILITY CRITERION, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL CRITERIA, TO THE TASK OF DRAFTING A TREATY FOR A RESTRUCTURED COMMON MARKET, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MEET. ALTHOUGH THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THIS INABILITY IS THE LACK OF A NICARAGUAN MEMBER, THE FLOUNDERING MAY BE SYMPTOMATIC OF EVEN DEEPER DISTRESS, AND POSSIBLY AN IMMINENT DANGER OF FOUNDERING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CAN, ACCORDING TO SIECA, IS NOW SCHEDULED TO HOLD ON AUGUST 25 ITS FREQUENTLY POSTPONED FIRST REGUALR MEETING SINCE THE LA FLOR SUMMIT. HOWEVER, A MEMBER TO REPLACE
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JORGE ZELEDON AS THE NICARAGUAN REPRESENTATIVE HAS NOT YET

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BEEN NAMED. BECAUSE THE GON HAS NEVER NAMED AN ALTERNATE (ALL THE OTHER FOUR MEMBERS HAVE ALTERNATES) THERE IS NO WAY THE CAN CAN DO ITS JOB.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE OTHER CA'S CAN PARTICIPATION IS ALSO SOMEWHAT SHOOK UP, EXCEPT GUATEMALAS (WHICH IS)

PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SHAKING UP THE OTHERS).

4. COSTA RICA'S MEMBER, RODOLFO SOLANO ORFILA, HAS BEEN INTERMITTENTLY "THREATENING" --OR OFFERING-- TO RESIGN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HE RECENTLY EXPRESSED STRONG INITIAL DISAPPROVAL OF GUATEMALA'S NEW PROPOSALS FOLLOWING THE JULY 10 SUMMIT. SOLANO'S ALTERNACE, FERNANDO BERROCAL, HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

5. HONDURAS, SHORTLY AFTER THE GOVERNMENTAL CHANGEOVER IN APRIL, ASSIGNED ITS VERY ABLE CAN MEMBER, BENJAMIN VILLANUEVA, TO TO OTHER DUTIES. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOH IS REPRESENTED BY VILLANUEVA'S LESS IMPRESSIVE ALTERNATE, ROBERTO VALLADARES.

6. AS FOR EL SALVADOR, THE CAPABLE LEADERSHIP OF LUIS BUI-TRAGO WILL SOON BE LOST TO BOTH HLAN AND CABEI (OF WHICH HE IS DIRCTOR) WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE IDB. BUITRAGO HAS ALSO BEEN OUTSPOKEN AGAINST THE GUATEMALAN "LIMITED HORIZONS" INITIATIVE.

7. ANOTHER CAN PROBLEM IS THAT ITS PARENT BODY, NOW CALLED THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING, HAS NEVER MET SINCE IT ESTABLISHED THE COMMITTEE IN 1972. WITHOUT FIRM SUSTENANCE, THE CAN HAS HAD TO EXIST MOSTLY ON PEP-PILLS IN THE FORM OF EXHORTATIONS IN JOINT PRESIDIENTIAL COMMUNIQUES, PUT THERE, IT WOULD APPEAR, ON A FAUTE-DE-MIEUX BASIS BY UNCOMFORTABLE DRAFTERS.

8. COMMENT: IF THE CAN DOESN'T GET GOING SOON, IT'S DEAD, EOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES. WHO WOULD WANT TO SERVE ON A BODY THAT HAS NOT PROVED TO BE SERIOUS? AND, FURTHERMORE, THE CA'S DON'T HAVE MANY OVERAGE FSO'S. THE CAN HAS REACHED THE LIMIT OF ITS CREDIBILITY. WITH SOME MEMBERS ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVING WITH BARELY GRACIOUS HASTE TOWARD THE EXITS, THE OTHERS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SIT PENSIVELY ON THE CAN AND PRODUCE NOTHING. A MEASURE OF GUATEMALAN CONCERN IS A REPORT THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE PLANS TO PHONE HIS NICARAGUAN COUNTERPART IN A LAST-MINUTE EFFORT TO SAVE THE AUG. 25 MEETING.

9. WOULD THE DEMISE OF THE CAN MEAN THE END OF THE

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INTEGRATION MOVEMENT OR OF THE CACM? NOT LIKELY. THE
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE DEGREE OF THEIR
DEPENDENCE ON AN INTEGRATED CENTRAL AMERICAN MARKET. MORE
LIKELY, THE EMPHASIS WOULD BE SHIFTED FROM "INTEGRATION" TO
"REGIONAL COOPERATION", AND THE FOCUS ON THE CAN WOULD
SHIFT TOCECLA'S COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CCE),
AS THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE NEW DIRECTION. THIS SHIFT
HAS ALREADY BEGUN, WITH THE CCE'S MEETING IN TEGUCIGALPA
MAY 28-30. AS THE ECLA PROGRAM GAINS MOMENTUM, THE CCE
COULD TAKE THE PLACE OF THE CAN AS THE OUTWARD SIGN TO WHICH
THE INTEGRATIONISTS ATTACH THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR BELONGING
TO A PATRIA GRANDE GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS MINISCULE
PARTS. MEANWHILE, NATIONALISM --OR NATIONAL LEVEL INTERESTS--
CAN CONTINUE RELATIVELY UNDISTURBED. TRAGEN.
MELOY

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